How are you getting home NYE? *4*

Start 2017 off right (with brunch) *8*

red eye

Tuesday
DECEMBER 27, 2

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A Chicago Tribune publication

GETTY IMAGES

Get it together

SO YOU DROPPED THE BALL AND DON'T HAVE NEW YEAR'S EVE PLANS YET. WE CAN HELP.
PAGES 6-7

BY SAMANTHA NELSON FOR REDEYE | REDEYE@REDEYECHICAGO.COM » GET MORE SPONTANEOUS EAT. DRINK. DO. IDEAS AT REDEYECHICAGO.COM

EAT

NOW OPEN

Bar Roma

5101 N. Clark St. 773-942-7572

Inspired by The Meatball Shop in New York, the Andersonville restaurant serves classic Roman dishes from executive chef Fred Ramos of Gioco and Angelina Ristorante including fried baby artichokes ($10), wood-grilled lamb chops ($28) and five varieties of meatballs ($8-$10). 5-10 p.m.

DRINK

MICHAEL TERCHA/TRIBUNE FILE

TACO 'BOUT BEER AND BOURBON DINNER

Tallboy Taco

325 W. Huron St. 312-488-4917

The River North restaurant pairs Jim Beam cocktails and Lagunitas beer with booze-infused food including 12th of Never ale-battered tilapia tacos and Jim Beam Double Oak Twice Barreled bread pudding. 7:30 p.m. $30. Reservations recommended.

A BEERY HAPPY HANNUKAH

Beermiscuous

2812 N. Lincoln Ave. 312-498-7704

Chabad Lincoln Park and Old Town Moishe House host a party for young professionals ages 22-32 including potato latkes and other vegetarian appetizers. Beer is available for purchase. Bring a toy to donate to Jewish Child and Family Services or canned food for a local food pantry. 7-9 p.m. $5. Tickets: **eventbrite.com**

DO

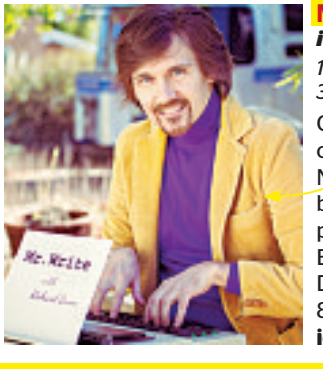
HILARY HIGGINS FILE PHOTO FOR REDEYE

ICE CURLING

Kaiser Tiger

1415 W. Randolph St. 312-243-3100

Make the most of the chilly weather by playing the Winter Olympic sport on one of the West Loop bar's three lanes, then warm up around the outdoor fire pit. 3-10 p.m. $40 per half-hour for up to four people.



MR. WRITE LIVE

iO Theater

1501 N. Kingsbury St. 312-929-2401

Catch a live recording of former "Saturday Night Live" cast member Paul Brittain's podcast with Tim Baltz of "Bajillion Dollar Propertie$." 8 p.m. $10. Tickets: **ioimprov.com**

3-DAY FORECAST

TUESDAY
31 25
Chilly

WEDNESDAY
37 31
Snow!!

THURSDAY
33 24
Not too bad

HAPPY HOUR OF THE DAY Big Bowl (60 E. Ohio St. 312-951-1888) offers half-price appetizers from 3-6 p.m. and 9 p.m.-close.

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708.656.9500
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5635 W. Roosevelt Rd.
Cicero, IL 60804
708.652.6500
($50 weekly)

Save the date

Eat, Drink, Do's weekly look at a month's worth of shows, tunes, foodie and boozy fun and more

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
December 25	26	Head back to **Page 2** for today's **Eat. Drink. Do.** events. 27	**EASY DATING AT THE BEDFORD** *1612 W. Division St. 773-951-5132* Meet People Chicago hosts a speed-dating event where you can meet 15 young professionals while you relax with drink specials including $5 draft beers, $6 prosecco and $7 Ketel One cocktails. 6:30-9:30 p.m. $25. Tickets: **meetpeoplechicago.com** 28	29	**PURITY BALL AT FANTASY NIGHTCLUB** *3641 N. Halsted St. 773-325-2233* Neverland's fifth annual white party features music from Montreal-based DJ Alain Jackinsky, go-go dancers and drag queen hosts including Eva Young and Soju. 11 p.m.-5 a.m. $29.99. Tickets: **thepurityball.com** 30	**NEW YEAR'S EVE IN THE SKY AT 360 CHICAGO** *875 N. Michigan Ave. 888-875-8439* Ring in 2017 on the 94th floor of the John Hancock Center with unlimited Tilt rides, a DJ, two glasses of sparkling wine, party favors, a view of the Navy Pier fireworks display, light bites and a cash bar. 9 p.m.-12:30 a.m. $60. Tickets: **eventbrite.com** 31
January 1 Rachael Lowe 2		**WINE TASTING EXPERIENCE AT SPIAGGIA** *980 N. Michigan Ave. 312-280-2750* Rachael Lowe, one of Food & Wine magazine's 2016 Sommeliers of the Year, leads a tasting of six red and white wines from throughout Italy paired with small bites. 5-7 p.m. $45. Tickets: **eventbrite.com** 3	4	5	**FEWER DAHLIAS AT RAVENSWOOD FELLOWSHIP UNITED METHODIST CHURCH** *4511 N. Hermitage Ave. 773-561-2610* Ursa Ensemble performs at this benefit for Planned Parenthood and Connections for Abused Women and their Children. 8 p.m. $10. Tickets: **brownpapertickets.com** 6	**COCKTAILS & HUMOR AT THE BAR & TABLE AT CH DISTILLERY** *564 W. Randolph St. 312-707-8780* Comedian Peter Kim headlines a standup showcase that also features sets from Amanda Cohen, Meg Indurti and Tyler Fowler. 9 p.m. $20, plus a two-drink minimum. Tickets: **bit.ly/chcomedy1** 7
8	9 10		**'IMPACT STATEMENT' AT PUBLIC HOUSE THEATRE** *3914 N. Clark St. 800-650-6449* Survivors of sexual assault share their stories at this benefit for Planned Parenthood, which includes appetizers and a cash bar. $10 or pay-what-you-can at the door. 8 p.m.; doors at 7 p.m. Tickets: **thepubtheatre.com** 11	12	**FILMSPOTTING LIVE AT REVA AND DAVID LOGAN CENTER FOR THE ARTS** *915 E. 60th St. 312-948-4600* The podcast's hosts highlight the best moments in film from 2016. Attendees can also share their nominees for films that were overlooked by critics. 8-11 p.m. $25. Tickets: **eventbrite.com** 13	**ONE PAN WINTER DINNERS DEMO AT LOCAL FOODS** *1427 W. Willow St. 312-432-6575* Learn how to make roast chicken thighs with tomato bread squash salad plus other customizable one-pot meals to get you through the cold weather. 3-5 p.m. $30. Tickets: **eventbrite.com** 14
FOR FRANKIE AT SMART BAR *3730 N. Clark St. 773-549-4140* House DJs celebrate the Chicago music icon at this benefit for the Frankie Knuckles Foundation that also features drag performances. 10 p.m. $15-$20. Tickets: **smartbarchicago.com/tickets** 15	**MARTIN LUTHER KING TRIBUTE CONCERT AT SYMPHONY CENTER** *220 S. Michigan Ave. 312-284-1554* Chicago Sinfonietta's annual concert also features performances from the People's Music School, Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra and more. 7:30 p.m. $18-$60. Tickets: **chicagosinfonietta.org** 16	17	**OYSTER SHUCKING CLASS AT GT FISH & OYSTER** *531 N. Wells St. 312-929-3501* Get a hands-on lesson from the River North restaurant's chefs and learn how to pair oysters with drinks at this class, which includes a dozen oysters, shucking utensils and wine. 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. $65. Reservations required. 18	19 20 21		

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Your NYE transit guide to get you home in one piece

TRANSIT DIARIES
Rianne Coale
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» @RianneCoale

What are you doing New Year's, New Year's Eve? Getting to and from your ball-dropping fun in one piece, that's what. (Oh, and leaving this craphole of a year behind you. Because 2016.)

There's no doubt your night will feature a high-spirited countdown, well wishes to family and friends and lots of booze, er, champagne toasts (*wink-wink*). So to avoid being the person at the party with no way home after midnight, here are some tips to help you navigate Chicago on the eve of 2017.

A party downtown

Chi-Town Rising, the city's second annual outdoor NYE celebration, will take place from 8 p.m.-12:30 a.m. Saturday (into Sunday). So if you're planning on passing through downtown, I'd suggest leaving yourself extra time to get around. Organizers expect more than 100,000 people will be in attendance throughout the day, which could mean horrendous traffic.

There will be two free viewing areas, one on either side of the Chicago River, immediately east of Michigan Avenue. The outdoor areas will have food and beverage concessions and offer views of the midnight fireworks display and the star that will rise up the west tower of the Hyatt Regency Chicago.

Although entry is free, tickets are required and can be secured on the Chi-Town Rising website, **chi-townrising.com**.

Ride the CTA for free

Starting at 10 p.m. Saturday and continuing through 4 a.m. Sunday, the CTA will offer free rides on all buses and trains.

For the past five years, Miller Lite has sponsored the popular NYE program, which promotes safety and responsible drinking.

"We will also be offering extra service including longer trains and more frequent service across several rail lines as well as extended hours and/or more frequent service on several bus routes," CTA spokesman Jeff Tolman wrote in an email.

Rideshare to the rescue

This should go without saying, but if you've had anything to drink at that New Year's Eve soiree, please do NOT get behind the wheel of a vehicle. As long as you haven't lost your phone amid the merriment (we've all been there), why not order an Uber or Lyft to take you home?

"On New Year's Eve, demand for Uber tends to peak between 12:30 and 3 a.m., when everyone is leaving the party," Uber spokeswoman Molly Spaeth wrote in an email.

To avoid paying a ridiculous surge charge, check the price of a trip before you ride, which you can do in the Uber or Lyft app.

"My tip to passengers would be to avoid the peak demand times around 8-10 p.m. and 1-3 a.m., and always check their Prime Time prices before confirming," Chicago Lyft driver Matt Nolan wrote in an email.

Pro tip: Order your Uber or Lyft home right around midnight. Demand tends to be quietest as the ball drops.

Another way to save a few bucks is to split the fare of a ride with a friend, or make new friends in an UberPool or Lyft Line.

Don't throw manners to the wind on NYE, either. Be respectful of your driver (aka don't be a garbage human in the early hours of 2017, or ever, really). If you're going to vomit, do it before you enter or after you exit the vehicle. If you find something in the back of the car that isn't yours, let your driver know; don't just take it (because that's called stealing).

So please, have yourself a ball this NYE but be safe about it. See you all in 2017!

THE TRANSIT DIARIES RUNS IN REDEYE'S PRINT EDITION EVERY TUESDAY ON PAGE 4. IF YOU HAVE A STORY YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE, EMAIL US AT REDEYE@REDEYECHICAGO.COM WITH "TRANSIT DIARIES" IN THE SUBJECT LINE.

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WEEK 48 12/26/16-1/1/17

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FORMAN MILLS

Green Street Smoked Meats
E. JASON WAMBSGANS/TRIBUNE FILE

A PROCRASTINATOR'S GUIDE TO

NEW YEAR'S EVE IN CHICAGO

By Morgan Olsen | REDEYE

You did that thing again this year. That thing where you put off making New Year's Eve plans and now, days away from the big event, you're scrambling to lock something down. We've all been there. Instead of contemplating whether or not that $2,000 bottle service package is worth it (it's not), check out our guide to last-minute events and alternative plans.

@MORGANCOLSEN | MCOLSEN@REDEYECHICAGO.COM

NO RESERVATIONS

These restaurants and bars understand your procrastinating ways and offer no-stress options for last-minute planners.

Green Street Smoked Meats

112 N. Green St. 312-754-0431

The West Loop barbecue joint offers a whiskey-fueled countdown to midnight, no tickets required. Guests will enjoy a live feed of the ball dropping on an 18-foot cinema screen, curated vinyl jams and complimentary Doughnut Vault desserts and pickleback shots at midnight. 11 a.m.-1 a.m. Table reservations begin at 8 p.m. Walk-ins welcome, or email **events@greenstreetmeats.com** to reserve a picnic table.

GMan Tavern

3740 N. Clark. 773-549-2050

The Wrigleyville bar teams up with RedEye music reporter Josh Terry for their annual music-filled New Year's Free party. Yes, free. Get there early to see DJ sets from members of Homme, NE-HI, Twin Peaks and Whitney, not to mention some special guests. 9 p.m.-3 a.m. A suggested (no pressure) $10 donation goes to the Lakeview Pantry.

WonFun and 2Fun Chinese

905 W. Randolph St. 312-877-5967

West Loop's new bi-level Chinese spot is throwing a big ol' party, complete with karaoke, foie gras and champagne. WonFun, the restaurant on the first floor, is still accepting dinner reservations via **funfunchinese.com**. After stuffing your face with foie gras fried rice, head upstairs to 2Fun for karaoke and a champagne toast at midnight. 5 p.m.-3 a.m.

The Berkshire Room

15 E. Ohio St. 312-894-0945

Ring in the New Year with large-format cocktails and champagne available by the glass at the dazzling River North cocktail bar. 4 p.m.-3 a.m.

Cruz Blanca

904 W. Randolph St. 312-733-1975

Party like Rick Bayless. His West Loop taqueria and brewery offers one hell of a deal: $50 gets you three drinks, passed tostaditas and a choice of Oaxacan specialty including a taco plate, cheesy shrimp encamaronadas or tlayuda (Mexican pizza). Plus, the folks behind the bar will be tapping new specialty beers every hour until midnight. 8 p.m.-1 a.m. Tickets: **cruzblancanye.eventbrite.com**

The Sixth

2200 W. Lawrence Ave. 773-433-5959

If quality cocktails are a priority, head to the Lincoln Square bar for innovative sips such as the Silly Rabbit with Trix-flavored ice cubes, a sidecar cocktail with gin, simple syrup, lemon juice and soda, and mint bitters ($12). 5 p.m.-3 a.m.

Ema

74 W. Illinois St. 312-527-5586

Eat your way to midnight with chef CJ Jacobson's four-course prix-fixe menu ($79.95) packed with house favorites such as stracciatella with charred Spanish chorizo and veal short rib with chickpea and pumpkin tagine. A complimentary champagne toast and party favors are available for those who are around when the ball drops. 4 p.m.-1 a.m. Reservations recommended.

WonFun and 2Fun Chinese

Troquet

111 W. Huron St. 312-202-9900

Venture out to the River North spot for a classic celebration, which includes a champagne toast, music from a DJ, heavy appetizers, party favors and an open bar with craft beer, wine and mixed drinks. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. $80. Tickets are available at the door or online at **troquetrivernorth.com.**

Lowcountry

3343 N. Clark St. 773-996-9997

Bib up and get things started early in Wrigleyville. The seafood boil spot hosts a loaded brunch buffet ($55) with all the good stuff, including snow crabs and shrimp, plus an optional $15 mimosa package. Noon-5 p.m.

Izakaya Lounge at Momotaro

820 W. Lake St. 312-733-4818

Even procrastinators deserve to treat themselves. If you're looking for a luxe last-minute ticket, the West Loop subterranean speakeasy offers heavy passed hors d'oeuvres, DJ jams and a four-hour premium bar with wine, beer, sake, champagne and cocktails. 9 p.m.-1 a.m. $130. Tickets: **izakayanye2017.brownpapertickets.com**

Timothy O'Toole's Pub

622 N. Fairbanks Court 312-642-0700

Forget the frills and hunker down at the Streeterville bar for good old-fashioned fun: $15 gets you a split of champagne or a Miller High Life tallboy, party favors and music from a guest DJ. Watch the countdown on more than 70 screens and order off the late-night menu when hunger strikes. 9 p.m.-4 a.m.

Slippery Slope and The Heavy Feather

2357 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-799-8504

Two words you never see associated with New Year's Eve: No cover. But the stacked Logan Square bars are making your dreams a reality with DJ sets downstairs at Slippery Slope and a sparkling cocktail menu upstairs at The Heavy Feather. Enjoy a champagne toast and balloon drop on both floors. 7 p.m.-3 a.m.

Imperial Lamian

6 W. Hubbard St. 312-595-9440

Walk-ins are welcome to savor a decadent four-course menu ($50) at the River North Chinese restaurant. Selections include fan favorites such as jasmine tea-smoked ribs, crispy duck salad and pineapple cake. Reservations are available by phone or online at **imperial-lamian.com**.

The Silly Rabbit at The Sixth
MICHAEL TERCHA/TRIBUNE FILE

WHEN IN DOUBT, ORDER DELIVERY

If you can't be bothered to go out, make the food come to you. Our top choice is Honey Butter Fried Chicken's outrageously awesome "Fancy Pack," which is available for delivery or pickup and includes eight pieces of fried chicken, truffle-honey butter, cheddar-chive corn muffins, bacon-pimento mac 'n' cheese, duck fat smash potatoes with champagne gravy and chocolate toffee sandwich cookies with vanilla bean filling ($85, order for delivery starting Dec. 24 at **trycaviar.com** or call 773-478-4000 for pickup).

GETTING AROUND

Finally, whatever you do for New Year's Eve, please don't drink and drive. Turn back to **Page 4** to check out the handy-dandy guide we put together to help you navigate the city's public transit and rideshare options, which make it easy to get around without getting behind the wheel.

STAY IN

LITMAS PUNCH

By Heather Schroering | REDEYE

No New Year's Eve party is complete without bubbly, and no Chicago New Year's Eve party is complete without next-level cocktailing. But don't fret depriving your guests of what this city does best. Turn up the bubbly with this sparkling punch from Kristina Magro (Pub Royale, Estereo)—the former RedEye Best Bartender contestant with the team behind The Dogma Group's stellar holiday cocktails at CH Distillery's "Christmas, A Cocktail Story" pop-up. You can make this drink the day of, but be sure to prepare the citrus-infused sugar 3–4 hours ahead of time.

INGREDIENTS

Citrus-infused sugar:

- **4** lemons
- **2** grapefruit
- **¾ cup** granulated sugar
- **¾ cup** grapefruit juice, strained

Cocktail:

- Citrus-infused sugar
- **1 750-milliliter** bottle bourbon
- **¾ cup** amaro (Montenegro, Averna or CH)
- **3 cups** black tea
- **1 750-milliliter** bottle sparkling wine
- **1 whole** nutmeg or cinnamon stick
- Orange or lemon wheels (slices), garnish

INSTRUCTIONS

Citrus-infused sugar:

Prep time: 3–4 hours or overnight

Using a vegetable peeler, remove peels from citrus fruit. Place peels in a pint-sized jar with sugar. Reserve peeled grapefruit for later and lemons for another purpose. Seal jar and shake until combined. Let sit for at least 3 to 4 hours or overnight, shaking occasionally, to allow sugar to extract oil from the peels. When ready, pour grapefruit juice into citrus-infused sugar, reseal jar and shake until sugar has dissolved.

Cocktail:

Prep time: 15 minutes

Serves: about 15 8-ounce cocktails

Fill a 1-gallon punch bowl or pitcher halfway up with ice cubes. Combine citrus-infused sugar (including peels), bourbon, amaro and tea and stir well. Top with sparkling wine, grate 1/4 nutmeg or cinnamon stick on top and let dilute for about 10 minutes before serving. Garnish with orange or lemons wheels.

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LITMAS PUNCH

By Heather Schroering | REDEYE

No New Year's Eve party is complete without bubbly, and no Chicago New Year's Eve party is complete without next-level cocktailing. But don't fret depriving your guests of what this city does best. Turn up the bubbly with this sparkling punch from Kristina Magro (Pub Royale, Estereo)—the former RedEye Best Bartender contestant with the team behind The Dogma Group's stellar holiday cocktails at CH Distillery's "Christmas, A Cocktail Story" pop-up. You can make this drink the day of, but be sure to prepare the citrus-infused sugar 3–4 hours ahead of time.

INGREDIENTS

Citrus-infused sugar:

- **4** lemons
- **2** grapefruit
- **¾ cup** granulated sugar
- **¾ cup** grapefruit juice, strained

Cocktail:

- Citrus-infused sugar
- **1 750-milliliter** bottle bourbon
- **¾ cup** amaro (Montenegro, Averna or CH)
- **3 cups** black tea
- **1 750-milliliter** bottle sparkling wine
- **1 whole** nutmeg or cinnamon stick
- Orange or lemon wheels (slices), garnish

INSTRUCTIONS

Citrus-infused sugar:

Prep time: 3–4 hours or overnight

Using a vegetable peeler, remove peels from citrus fruit. Place peels in a pint-sized jar with sugar. Reserve peeled grapefruit for later and lemons for another purpose. Seal jar and shake until combined. Let sit for at least 3 to 4 hours or overnight, shaking occasionally, to allow sugar to extract oil from the peels. When ready, pour grapefruit juice into citrus-infused sugar, reseal jar and shake until sugar has dissolved.

Cocktail:

Prep time: 15 minutes

Serves: about 15 8-ounce cocktails

Fill a 1-gallon punch bowl or pitcher halfway up with ice cubes. Combine citrus-infused sugar (including peels), bourbon, amaro and tea and stir well. Top with sparkling wine, grate 1/4 nutmeg or cinnamon stick on top and let dilute for about 10 minutes before serving. Garnish with orange or lemons wheels.

Hot chocolate from Cindy's

HANGOVER, BE GONE

17 NEW YEAR'S DAY BRUNCHES IN CHICAGO

By Morgan Olsen | REDEYE

After drinking your weight in champagne and surrendering to astronomical surge pricing for a ride home, it's time to really ring in the new year. With brunch, of course. Put those New Year's resolutions on hold and enjoy one of these boozy brunches on Jan. 1.

Appellation

5212 N. Clark St. 773-358-7181

Say hello to 2017 with fried chicken and champagne in Andersonville. The bird is served family-style with all the fixings, including black-eyed peas, collard greens and cornbread ($22). Visit the champagne bar for bubbles and other sparkling cocktails available for purchase. 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Bernie's Lunch & Supper

660 N. Orleans St. 312-624-9892

All the usual brunch suspects are available, including torrija French toast with seasonal jam ($14), lox with warm pita ($16) and croque madame ($16). As a bonus, chef Ryan Sand offers a few off-menu specials, such as walnut-rum-raisin sticky buns ($7) and cider doughnuts ($7). 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Call ahead for reservations.

Cindy's

12 S. Michigan Ave. 312-792-3502

Allow 45s and records to serenade you into 2017 while enjoying chef de cuisine Keith Potter's best brunch dishes and spirit guide Nandini Khaund's palate-pleasing brunch bevvies. We recommend pairing the Southern Belle burger—which is topped with pickled relish, pimento cheese, butterkase, bacon and a fried egg ($18)—with Howl at the Jun, a kombucha cocktail with gin, grapefruit juice and sparkling rosé ($15). Be sure to catch part of the live Soul Sunday brunch DJ set from noon-2 p.m. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Call ahead or make reservations at **opentable.com.**

Cochon Volant Brasserie

Cochon Volant Brasserie

100 W. Monroe St. 312-754-6560

On top of the Loop restaurant's usual brunch menu, chef Matt Ayala will offer up his Breakfast Royale burger, which includes two beef patties, thick-cut bacon, confit onion, American cheese, dijonnaise and house pickles on a warm English muffin ($16.95, add an egg for $3.95). 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Call ahead for reservations.

Stella Barra Pizzeria

Summer House Santa Monica

Mac's Wood Grilled
1801 W. Division St. 773-782-4400

The toughest choice you'll have to make at this a la carte brunch is stuffed banana Nutella French toast with cinnamon and vanilla ($9) or housemade biscuits with three-pepper Andouille sausage gravy, scrambled eggs and home fries ($9). Throw back drink specials including $5 mimosas, $10 PBR pitchers and $14 Founders All Day pitchers. 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Mindy's HotChocolate
1747 N. Damen Ave. 773-489-1747

Roll out of bed and head to Mindy Segal's Bucktown eatery in your pajamas to enjoy one of the tastiest brunch menus in town. Nosh on quiche, buttermilk pancakes with blueberry preserves or a burger stacked with bacon, cheddar and pickles. We hear a mug of her signature hot chocolate cures most hangovers. 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Old Town Social
455 W. North Ave. 312-266-2277

The Old Town spot hosts their first New Year's Day Pajama Brunch, which features a new 99-ingredient bloody mary bar, mimosas and hearty food options such as Seasonal Berry Blast pancakes and eggs benedict with housemade pork belly from Chef Jared Van Camp's outstanding charcuterie program. Get your whole group to show up in jammies and you'll score an Old Town Social gift card equal to the cost of your meal in $25 increments. 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Stella Barra Pizzeria
1954 N. Halsted St. 773-634-4101

The Lincoln Park pizzeria encourages sleepy guests to raid the brunch buffet ($19.95), which will be stocked with warm brioche cinnamon rolls, egg enchiladas and more. Show up in your pajamas and receive a gift card equal to the price of your meal to use toward a future visit. 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Summer House Santa Monica
1954 N. Halsted St. 773-634-4100

Warm up in the sun-drenched Lincoln Park dining room and stuff your face with the Santa Monica egg white omelette with shaved turkey breast and tomato-avocado salsa ($12.99), or indulge your sweet tooth with a stack of blueberry pancakes ($10.99). 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

@MORGANCOLSEN | MCOLSEN@REDEYECHICAGO.COM

Ramen-San
59 W. Hubbard St. 312-377-9950

A piping hot bowl of ramen from the cozy River North restaurant should cure that nasty champagne hangover. Noon to midnight.

D.S. Tequila Company
3352 N. Halsted St. 773-697-9127

Mimosa fairies to the rescue! Servers with beverage backpacks will offer mimosa refills throughout brunch service ($16 drink package with any brunch entree purchase). Or go the savory route with $5 Texas-style bloody marys. The menu has something for everyone with monkey bread ($9.56), Betty Sue's chicken and biscuits ($12.59), Cuban veggie tacos ($4.25) and churros ($6.35). 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Estelle's
2013 W. North Ave. 773-782-0450

If you missed brunch entirely, the Wicker Park mainstay has you covered with New Year's Day evening specials including a $10 specialty burger, $7 Miller High Life with a Four Roses bourbon shot, $4 PBR tall boys and $6 Jameson shots. 5 p.m.-4 a.m.

Fremont
15 W. Illinois St. 312-874-7270

It's not a walk of shame if you're heading straight to brunch. Stay in your PJs for the River North bar's brunch buffet ($35) featuring a carving station, waffle bar, omelette station, doughnut mountain, seafood tower and more. Wash it down with an optional $15 champagne package that comes with fresh housemade juices. If you don't make it on Jan. 1, return for the same deal on Jan. 2. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday and Monday. Reservations are recommended at **opentable.com**.

La Sirena Clandestina

Frontier
1072 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-772-4322

Head to chef Brian Jupiter's West Town spot for champagne Jell-O shots and a champagne cocktail menu. Fill up on brunch favorites such as salted caramel French toast with maple-braised bacon, apples and spiced pecans ($12) or smoked boar hash stuffed with pulled boar shoulder, sweet peppers, red onion, cilantro, potatoes, fried egg and Sriracha barbecue sauce ($14). Plus, enjoy live music from the Four Star Brass Band starting at noon. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Call ahead for reservations.

The Kitchen Bistro
316 N. Clark St. 312-836-1300

Treat yourself to indulgent brunch options from chef Johnny Anderes including a smoked duck hot dog with a fried egg and mornay sauce, fried chicken and waffles with caviar and braised lamb served with bucatini pasta, fried egg and harissa sauce. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Call ahead for reservations.

Kit Kat Lounge and Supper Club
3700 N. Halsted St. 773-525-1111

Keep the party going in Lakeview with a celebratory champagne brunch. The menu includes favorites such as chicken and waffles ($16), rice crispy french toast ($12), crab cake benedict ($14) and chilaquiles ($14). Spring for a $14.95 drink package that includes mimosas, bloody marys, bellinis, sangria and specialty martinis. Then, sit back and enjoy performances by Diva Madam X. 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

La Sirena Clandestina
954 W. Fulton Market 312-226-5300

The West Loop restaurant's Bossa Nova Brunch features morning-friendly cocktails, live music and over-the-top entrees such as the lobster benedict with poached lobster, avocado mash, malagueta hollandaise and poached eggs ($18). 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

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2	6	8	4	3	1	7	5	9
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FRIDAY'S SOLUTIONS

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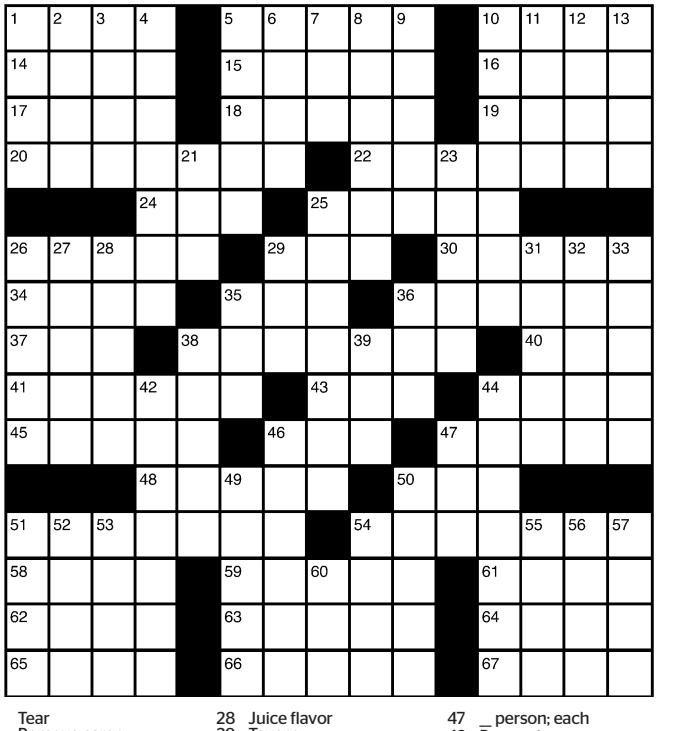

ACROSS
1 "O _, All Ye Faithful"
5 Scour
10 Lower leg part
14 As strong as _
15 Actor Michael
16 Pigeon coop
17 Thin opening
18 Mac maker
19 Leave out
20 Firefighter's water source
22 Tyrannize
24 Sup
25 Segel or Biggs
26 Religious tenet
29 Early flower
30 Shish _; BBQ favorite
34 Telegram
35 Carp
36 Put to sleep before surgery
37 So. state
38 Counterfeiter's crime
40 In just a _; very soon
41 Gave back funds borrowed
43 _ Angeles, CA
44 Liquefy
45 Founder of psychoanalysis
46 Pigsty
47 White adhesive
48 Postpone
50 This month: abbr.
51 Writer Dickens
54 Put in order
58 Theater box
59 Make amends
61 _ weevil; cotton bud pest
62 Mind
63 Transmits
64 Wander
65 Pea casings
66 Serving _; waiters' items
67 Finales

DOWN
1 Money
2 "It's _ a matter of time"
3 In a bad _; cross
4 Severe; very great
5 Meager
6 Nav. officer
7 Tear
8 Remove cargo
9 Summons with a pager
10 Disdained
11 Residence
12 "_ what it is"
13 Trawlers' items
21 Motorists' assn.
23 Jail, slangily
25 Circus performer
26 Sneezy or Doc
27 Refueling ship
28 Juice flavor
29 Tavern
31 "_ in Toyland"
32 Leaning
33 Davis or Midler
35 Silent assent
36 Soon-to-be grads: abbr.
38 Castro, for one
39 Very long time
42 Hepburn and Meadows
44 Ghoulish
46 Bother
47 _ person; each
49 Banquet
50 Frock
51 Clippety-_
52 Skelton character
53 Like fine wine
54 Mayberry fellow
55 Midday
56 Pleased
57 Lawn trees
60 Go out _ limb; take a risk

TODAY IN THE YEAR ...

1831: Naturalist Charles Darwin set out on a round-the-world voyage aboard the HMS Beagle.
1932: New York City's Radio City Music Hall first opened.
2007: Opposition leader Benazir Bhutto was assassinated during a suicide bomb attack in Pakistan following a campaign rally.

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STUFF FOR SALE

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AUCTION New Year's Day Gun Auction January 1st 9:00 am 950 Firearms inc/Colt, Win. S&W, Browning, Military, Antique to NIB 2601 Lake Land Blvd Mattoon, IL Bauer Auction Service, LLC See complete sale bill & 6,000 photos at **www.bauerauction.com**

Furniture Sale Naperville Entertainment Center, Sofa, Dinner Table, etc **847-774-3846**

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GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Tech Sale: North Chicago Public Library will hold a Tech Sale for library computer and office equipment, including other miscellaneous items that have been replaced, during library hours beginning Dec. 27 at 2100 Argonne Drive. The sale will continue each day, during library hours, until all items are sold. **847-689-0125**

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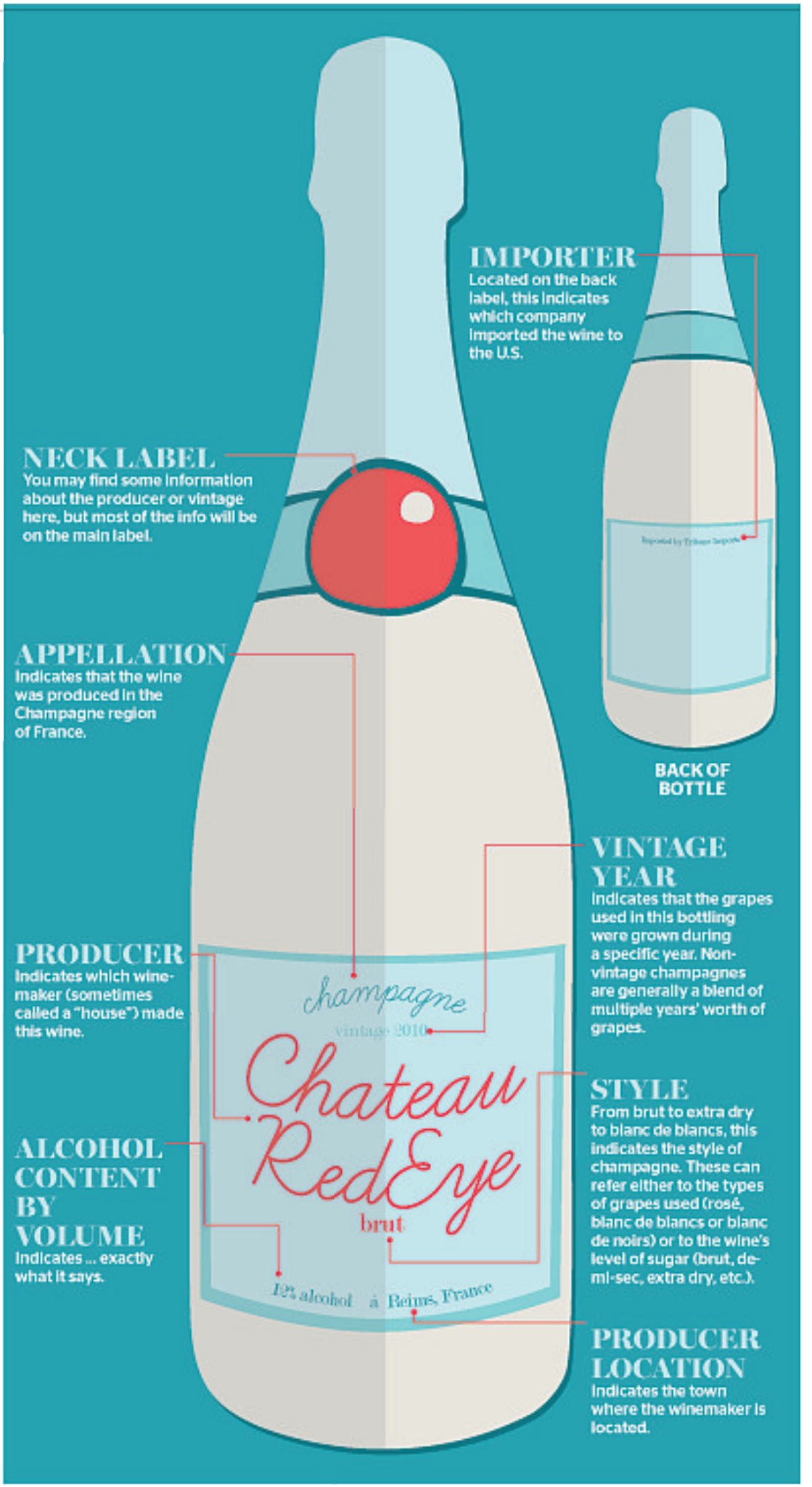
CHAMPAGNE LABEL 101

Bottle school

PARLEZ-VOUS CHAMPAGNE? TIPS FOR DECODING A CHAMPAGNE BOTTLE'S LABEL

RedEye

Chances are, you buy a bottle of champagne for New Year's Eve ... and that's about it (conversely, if you're buying champagne on the regular, invite us to your next dinner party, K?). To the unfamiliar eye, champagne labels can be daunting. Yes, they're mostly in French, and yes, they're all slightly different. But that doesn't mean you should choose a bottle blindly. Rule number one is that to be labeled "champagne" rather than sparkling wine, cava or prosecco, the wine has to be produced in the geographic region of France called Champagne. Once you know that, the rest of the label can help you zero in on more specifics about the wine. Here's what to look for at the wine shop. And remember, don't be afraid to ask staff for help.

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